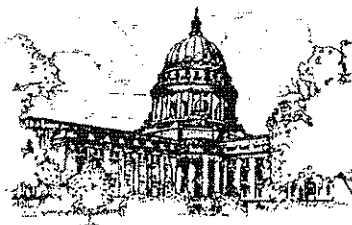


JIM SULLIVAN
STATE SENATOR



5TH SENATE DISTRICT

Wisconsin State Senate

**Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, Biotechnology, and Financial Institutions
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Testimony on Senate Bill 581**

Good afternoon my fellow committee members. Identity theft is a crime in which an impostor obtains key pieces of personal identifying information such as social security numbers and driver's license numbers and uses them for personal gain. It can start with a data breach, phishing, or paper documents which have been discarded.

State government is the depository of millions of records which contain personal information. The Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) in particular is the filing agency for numerous corporations, and sometimes individuals provide personal information, such as a social security number, even if it is not required on the form.

DFI currently is not able to redact any information from records prior to publishing them online or making them available under the open records law, even if it is personal identifying information that is not required on the form. Senate Bill 581 grants DFI the authority to redact social security numbers (SSN) from records submitted to them prior to releasing them to the general public.

This is a very simple, straightforward bill, and I ask for your support. I welcome any questions you have.

